MCC
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Good Friday Service
April 18th, 2014

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
930 North 4th Street | First Floor Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 www.mcclv.org | info@mcclv.org

The * indicates to please rise as able

Prelude: "Watch the Lamb" by Ray Boltz

***Words of Confession**

(One) Judas, servant of jealousy and greed, where are you?
(ALL) I am here.
(One) Peter, slave of fear and self-preservation, where are you?
(ALL) I am here.
(One) Thomas, slave of doubt and pessimism, where are you?
(ALL) I am here.
(One) Women and men of Jerusalem, you who sing hosannas but flee from the call of sacrifice and self-denial, where are you?
(ALL) I am here.
(One) The story of Christ's passion and death mirrors for us many of our weaknesses and sins. We all come here as people who have missed the mark and who are alienated from God and one another. We all come here because it is our choice not to remain so. Let us confess together as a people and pray for mercy:
(ALL): Almighty God, we ask you to have mercy upon us for the part our sin has played in the suffering and death of the Innocent One. Have mercy upon us not because we deserve it but because we are the ones for whom Jesus suffered and died. Amen.

***Opening Prayer**

***Opening Song: "What Wondrous Love Is This"**

Scripture Reading (Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9)

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Child of God, let us hold

fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

While in the flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and was heard because of his reverent submission. Although a Child, Jesus learned obedience through suffering; and having been made perfect, became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Jesus

Praise Team Anthem: "Lamb of God"

Message: "Reverent Submission"

Song of Response: "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

Offering

Offering Song: "Written In Red"

Communion

Communion Song: "Behold the Lamb"

Passion Reading:: "Were You There"

Time at the Cross

***Please leave the Sanctuary in silence**

The focus of the faithful on Good Friday is the Cross. In churches throughout the world, traditional Good Friday services feature the Reading of the Passion and some churches stage a Passion Play. Catholic churches and other liturgical churches include something in the service called "The Veneration of the Cross." The Veneration is a ceremony in which the faithful pay respect to the cross on which Jesus was crucified. Veneration is performed by individuals bowing, kneeling, kissing or touching the cross.

A poem from David E. Butler in "Seasons of Hope":

Certainly, ignorance we have aplenty, as we blunder about
in the night that comes when we close
our eyes to the light.
But as we contemplate those
gathered around that ancient cross, and our own lives
as we gather around it again,
Perhaps our sinking suspicion should be
that we know exactly what we are doing.
And we do it again and again.
Today, we need his prayer more than ever,
and the grace of mind and spirit form which it came.
Yes, our God, forgive us.